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DATE: 9 April 1953

TO: Deputy Director of Security
VIA: Chief, Security Research Staff
FROM: Chief, Technical Branch
SUBJECT: Attached Memorandum from Chief, Contact Division
(Re ~~_____~~ etc.)

D 1. The writer has carefully examined the memorandum from the Contact Division dated 26 March 1953 and is of the opinion that if the facts are as stated, a very serious situation exists.

2. Research in connection with the ARTICHOKE program has very clearly shown that one of the standard techniques used by mediums is the use of hypnosis and in the opinion of the writer and in the opinion of others who are professionally competent in the field of hypnosis, the extraction of information from persons under hypnosis is entirely possible. While the memorandum does not describe the technical conditions under which these seances are held, such seances generally are conducted under conditions ideal for hypnosis either for one individual or a group of individuals. As a rule, the rooms are darkened and various "props" are used which very simply can be the basis for gaining directed attention and hence facilitating hypnosis. Since it would appear from the memorandum that none of the individuals engaged are connected in any way with this Agency, the writer is of the opinion that the matter quite possibly should be referred to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

3. If, however, it is believed by the proper authorities that this matter can properly be handled by this Agency, particularly the Security Office of this Agency, the writer suggests the following:

D 1. A complete surveillance on the employee of _____ to determine the whereabouts of the mediums.
2. A broad surveillance on all individuals attending the meetings, particularly the establishment of the identities of those participating.

[Redacted]

D

3. A comprehensive technical surveillance of the area in which the meetings take place aimed specifically at the planting of microphones in the area with consideration also given to the taking of identity photographs in this connection.
4. Possible planting of a very specialized observer within the group through a developed friendship with employee.
- D 5. An effort should be made either through _____ or surreptitiously to trace and obtain the stenographic notes made by the woman in question at the meetings.

h. For matter of record, the writer wishes to state that in his opinion, individuals under hypnosis can retain to writing very complex chemical and mathematical formulas. This has been demonstrated in a closely related manner by the ANTICHT work on numerous occasions in this Office.

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